

Message Text

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47

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 EUR-10 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 L-02 PRS-01 IO-03

DPW-01 AID-10 RSR-01 /080 W
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R 271152 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3797

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 11585

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI VS

SUBJ: NEW GVN LOC CLEARING OPERATIONS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION IMMEDIATE SAIGON INFO IMMEDIATE USDAO SAIGON
USSAG NKP THAILAND JUNE 26, REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO.

QUOTE:

BIEN HOA 0228

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI VS

SUBJ: NEW GVN LOC CLEARING OPERATIONS

REF: BIEN HOA 0029

1. WE HAVE TWO REPORTS INDICATING LAUNCHED OR PLANNED GVN
DRIVES TO CLEAR MAJOR LOCS IN MR 3:

A. PHUOC TUY PROVINCE CHIEF LTC HUYNH BUU SON TOLD CONGEN
AFTERNOON JUNE 26 THAT RVNAF WOULD LAUNCH OPERATION MORNING
JUNE 27 TO CLEAR ALL OF INTERPROVINCIAL ROUTE 2 BETWEEN DUC
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THANH DISTRICT TOWN IN PHUOC TUY TO XUAN LOC TOWN IN LONG KHANH PROVINCE. OPERATION WILL COMBINE TERRITORIAL FORCES FROM TWO PROVINCES WITH ELEMENTS OF 48 TH REGIMENT OF ARVN 18 TH INFANTRY DIVISION, WHICH HAS BEEN OPERATING ALONG ROUTE 2 SINCE SHORTLY AFTER JANUARY CEASE- FIRE (SEE REFTEL). SON TOLD US TIMING WAS PERFECT FOR RVNAF BECAUSE LA 33 RD AND MOST OF 274 TH REGIMENTS ARE REPORTED ELSEWHERE, LEAVING BEHIND ONLY UNDERSTRENGTH BATTALION OF 274 TH WHICH, SON BELIEVES, WILL NOT REACT SINCE IT WILL BE OUTGUNNED. LTC SON SAID DID NOT KNOW WHETHER ORDER FOR OPERATION CAME FROM BIEN HOA OR SAIGON.

B. PHUOC LONG SECTOR TOLD DAO LIAISON OFFICER ON VISIT THERE THAT RVNAF BATTALION (NFI) MADE GROUND CONTACT WITH ESTIMATED COMPANY- SIZE NVA/ VC UNIT (NFI) AFTERNOON JUNE 25 NEAR NATIONAL HIGHWAY 14 VIC YT 1580. ONE VNAF HELICOPTER FLYING IN SUPPORT OF RVNAF ELEMENT WAS REPORTEDLY HIT BUT MANAGED TO LAND SAFELY BACK AT SONG BE AIRSTRIP. AS OF LATE MORNING JUNE 26 CONTACT WAS CONTINUING, BUT THERE WAS NO INFORMATION ON CASUALTIES. WE ARE CHECKING THIS REPORT FURTHER.

2. COMMENT: ROUTE 2 WAS CONTESTED, WITH NVA/ VC HOLDING UPPER HAND, LONG BEFORE JANUARY CEASE- FIRE. RVNAF UNITS MOVED IN THERE IN FEBRUARY AND BUILT OUTPOSTS, BUT ROUTE IS STILL INSECURE FROM RVNAF POINT OF VIEW, AND CIVILIAN TRAFFIC MUST PASS THROUGH CHECKPOINTS. HIGHWAY 14 HAS BEEN ESSENTIALLY CONTROLLED BY NVA/ VC BETWEEN DONG XOAI AND JUNCTION WITH ROUTE 311 SINCE BEFORE CEASE- FIRE, EXCEPT FOR BRIEF PERIOD IN MARCH WHEN IT WAS CLEARED BY ELEMENTS OF ARVN 5 TH DIVISION. NVA/ VC HAVE PERMITTED CIVILIAN TRAFFIC TO PASS THROUGH CHECKPOINTS, BUT NOT MILITARY CONVOYS, AND CONVOY SCHEDULED TO LEAVE FROM PHU GIAO (BINH DUONG PROVINCE) IN EARLY JUNE WAS CANCELLED BECAUSE OF PREOCCUPATION WITH SITUATION IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE. THUS IF THERE IS BATTALION- SIZE RVNAF UNIT IN THIS SECTION OF HIGHWAY 14 IT ALMOST CERTAINLY HAS MOVED IN THERE SINCE CEASE- FIRE II, AND IS PROBABLY ENGAGED IN ROAD CLEARING OPERATION.

3. WE ASSUME THAT THESE GVN OPERATIONS ARE ORDERED FROM SAIGON, AND INTENDED TO STRENGTHEN GVN' S HAND IN TPJMC DISCUSSIONS ON ZONES OF CONTROL REQUIRED BY JOINT COMMUNIQUE. THEY APPEAR TO BE CLEAR VIOLATIONS OF COMMUNIQUE AND PARIS CONFIDENTIAL

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AGREEMENT. END COMMENT.
WALKINSHAW
UNQUOTE
WHITEHOUSE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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